

# Magnesium/Aluminum Antacids

(mag-nee-zee-um / ah-loo-mih-num)

**Category:** Oral Antacid; Laxative (Anti-Constipation)

**Other Names for this Medication:** Maalox®, Mylanta®

**Common Dosage Forms: Veterinary:** None. **Human:** aluminum hydroxide 200 mg and magnesium hydroxide 200 mg per 5 mL oral suspension; various forms of tablets, chewable tablets, and aerosol foam suspensions.

This information sheet does not contain all available information for this medication. It is to help answer commonly asked questions and help you give the medication safely and effectively to your animal. If you have other questions or need more information about this medication, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist.

## Key Information

- ▶ Used to lower stomach acidity and treat stomach upset.
- ▶ Generally well tolerated; constipation or diarrhea can occur.
- ▶ Magnesium/aluminum antacids are available over-the-counter (without a prescription). Do not give antacids (or any other over-the-counter medications) to your animal without first talking with your veterinarian.

## How is this medication useful?

Magnesium hydroxide with aluminum salts can lower stomach acidity to treat a variety of conditions. The FDA (U.S. Food & Drug Administration) has approved this drug for use in humans, but it is not officially approved for use in animal patients. The FDA allows veterinarians to prescribe products containing this drug in different species or for other conditions in certain situations. You and your veterinarian can discuss why this drug is the most appropriate choice.

## What should I tell my veterinarian to see if this medication can be safely given?

Many things might affect how well this drug will work in your animal. Be sure to discuss the following with your veterinarian so together you can make the best treatment decisions.

- ▶ Other drugs can interact with magnesium/aluminum antacids, so be sure to tell your veterinarian and pharmacist what medications (including vitamins, supplements, or herbal therapies) you give your animal, including the amount and time you give each.
- ▶ Tell your veterinarian about any conditions or diseases your pet may have now or has had in the past.
- ▶ If your animal has been treated for the same disease or condition in the past, tell your veterinarian about the treatment and how well it did or didn't work.
- ▶ If your animal is pregnant or nursing, talk to your veterinarian about the risks of using this drug.
- ▶ Tell your veterinarian and pharmacist about any medication side effects (including allergic reactions, lack of appetite, diarrhea, itching, hair loss) your pet has developed in the past.

## When should this medication not be used or be used very carefully?

No drug is 100% safe in all patients, but your veterinarian will discuss with you any specific concerns about using this drug in your animal.

This drug **SHOULD NOT** be used in patients:

- ▶ That are allergic to it.
- ▶ That have severe kidney disease.

This drug should be used **WITH CAUTION** in patients:

- ▶ With electrolyte- (salt-) restricted diets, as some of these products can have significant amounts of sodium or potassium.
- ▶ With gastric outlet obstruction (inability of the stomach to empty).

If your pet has any of these conditions, talk to your veterinarian about the potential risks versus benefits.

## What are the side effects of this medication?

### Side effects that usually are not serious include:

- ▶ Diarrhea or frequent loose stools.
- ▶ Constipation.

You don't have to be overly concerned if you see either of these signs unless they are severe, worsen, or continue to be a problem. Contact your veterinarian if this happens.

## If my pet gets too much of this medication (an overdose), what should I do?

Large overdoses of magnesium/aluminum antacids can cause fluid and electrolyte imbalances, which may require intravenous (IV) fluids. If you witness or suspect an overdose, contact your veterinarian or an animal poison control center for further advice. Animal poison control centers that are open 24 hours a day include: **Pet Poison HELPLINE** (855-764-7661) and **ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center** (888-426-4435); a consultation fee is charged for these services.

## How should this medication be given?

For this medication to work, give it exactly as your veterinarian has prescribed. It's a good idea to always check the label to be sure you are giving the drug correctly.

- ▶ Liquid suspensions must be shaken well before measuring the dose for your pet.
- ▶ Liquid forms of this medication must be measured carefully. Your veterinarian or pharmacist can help by providing special measuring spoons or syringes.
- ▶ If you have difficulty getting your animal to take the medicine, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist for tips to help dosing and reducing the stress of medication time.
- ▶ This medication can be given for various lengths of time, so be sure you understand how long your veterinarian wants you to continue giving it.

**What should I do if I miss giving a dose of this medication?**

If you miss a dose, give it when you remember, but if it is close to the time for the next dose, skip the dose you missed and give it at the next scheduled time. After that, return to the regular dosing schedule. Do not double-up or give extra doses.

**How should I store this medication?**

- ▶ Store this medication (tablets and liquids) in its original prescription bottle. Tablets can also be stored in an approved dosage reminder (ie, pill minder) container at room temperature.
- ▶ If your veterinarian or pharmacist has made (compounded) a special formulation for your animal, follow the storage recommendations and expiration date for the product.
- ▶ Keep away from children and other animals.

**Can handling this medication be hazardous to me, my family, or other pets?**

There are no specific precautions required when handling this medication unless you are allergic to it. Wash your hands after handling any medication.

**How should I dispose of this medication if I don't use it all?**

- ▶ Do not flush this medication down the toilet or wash it down the sink. If a community drug “take-back” program is available, use this option. If there is no take-back program, mix the drug with coffee grounds or cat litter (to make it undesirable to children and animals and unrecognizable to people who might go through your trash), place the mixture in a sealable plastic bag to keep it from leaking out, and throw the bag out with the regular trash.
- ▶ Do not save left over medication for future use or give it to others to use.

**What other information is important for this medication?**

- ▶ Magnesium/aluminum antacids are available over-the-counter (without a prescription). Do not give antacids (or any other over-the-counter medicines) to your animal without first consulting a veterinarian.
- ▶ Magnesium and aluminum may interfere with how other drugs are absorbed into the body. Check with your pharmacist or veterinarian whether you should give this drug either 1 before or 2 hours after administering your pet's other medications.
- ▶ Use of this drug may not be allowed in certain animal competitions. Check rules and regulations before entering your animal in a competition while this medication is being administered.
- ▶ Do not change dosage forms (eg, new brand name, tablets to liquid form) without first consulting with a veterinarian or pharmacist, as the doses may not be the same.

**If you have any other questions or concerns about this medication, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist.**

# Magnesium Hydroxide

(mag-nee-zee-um hye-droks-ide)

**Category:** Oral Laxative (Anti-Constipation)

**Other Names for this Medication:** Milk of Magnesia

**Common Dosage Forms: Veterinary:** Oral boluses 17.9-27 g; Oral Powder, Milk of Magnesia: 80 mg/mL.

**Human:** 311 mg & 400 mg chewable tablets; 400 mg/5 mL (80 mg/mL) & 800 mg/5 mL (160 mg/mL) oral liquid.

This information sheet does not contain all available information for this medication. It is to help answer commonly asked questions and help you give the medication safely and effectively to your animal. If you have other questions or need more information about this medication, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist.

## Key Information

- ▶ Used to treat constipation.
- ▶ Generally well tolerated; diarrhea can occur.
- ▶ Magnesium hydroxide is available OTC (over-the-counter; without a prescription). Do not give magnesium hydroxide (or any other OTC medications/supplements) to your animal without first consulting a veterinarian.

## How is this medication useful?

Magnesium hydroxide is used to treat constipation.

The FDA (U.S. Food & Drug Administration) has approved this drug for use in humans but it is not officially approved for use in animals. The FDA allows veterinarians to prescribe products containing this drug in different species or for other conditions in certain situations. You and your veterinarian can discuss why this drug is the most appropriate choice.

## What should I tell my veterinarian to see if this medication can be safely given?

Many things might affect how well this drug will work in your animal. Be sure to discuss the following with your veterinarian so together you can make the best treatment decisions.

- ▶ Other drugs can interact with magnesium hydroxide, so be sure to tell your veterinarian and pharmacist what medications (including vitamins, supplements, or herbal therapies) you give your animal, including the amount and time you give each.
- ▶ Tell your veterinarian about any conditions or diseases your pet may have now or has had in the past.
- ▶ If your animal has been treated for the same disease or condition in the past, tell your veterinarian about the treatment and how well it did or didn't work.
- ▶ If your animal is pregnant or nursing, talk to your veterinarian about the risks of using this drug.
- ▶ Tell your veterinarian and pharmacist about any medication side effects (including allergic reactions, lack of appetite, diarrhea, itching, hair loss) your pet has developed in the past.

## When should this medication not be used or be used very carefully?

No drug is 100% safe in all patients, but your veterinarian will discuss with you any specific concerns about using this drug in your animal.

This drug **SHOULD NOT** be used in patients:

- ▶ That are allergic to it.
- ▶ That have severe kidney disease.

This drug should be used **WITH CAUTION** in patients:

- ▶ With magnesium-restricted diets.

If your pet has any of these conditions, talk to your veterinarian about the potential risks versus benefits.

## What are the side effects of this medication?

**Side effects that usually are not serious include:**

- ▶ Diarrhea or frequent loose stools.

You don't have to be overly concerned if you see this sign unless it becomes severe, worsens, or continues to be a problem. Contact your veterinarian if this happens.

## If my pet gets too much of this medication (an overdose), what should I do?

Overdoses of magnesium hydroxide can cause fluid and electrolyte (salt) imbalances, which may require medical attention. If you witness or suspect an overdose, contact your veterinarian or an animal poison control center for further advice. Animal poison control centers that are open 24 hours a day include: **Pet Poison HELPLINE** (855-764-7661) and **ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center** (888-426-4435); a consultation fee is charged for these services.

## How should this medication be given?

For this medication to work, give it exactly as your veterinarian has prescribed. It's a good idea to always check the prescription label to be sure you are giving the drug correctly.

- ▶ Liquid forms of this medication must be measured carefully. Your veterinarian or pharmacist can help by providing special measuring spoons or syringes.
- ▶ If you have difficulty getting your animal to take the medicine, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist for tips to help dosing and reducing the stress of medication time.
- ▶ This medication can be given for various lengths of time, so be sure you understand how long your veterinarian wants you to continue giving it.

## What should I do if I miss giving a dose of this medication?

If you miss a dose, give it when you remember, but if it is close to the time for the next dose, skip the dose you missed and give it at the next scheduled time. After that, return to the regular dosing schedule. Do not double-up or give extra doses.

**How should I store this medication?**

- ▶ Store this medication in its original prescription bottle or an approved dosage reminder (ie, pill minder) container at room temperature.
- ▶ If your veterinarian or pharmacist has made (compounded) a special formulation for your animal, follow the storage recommendations and expiration date for the product.
- ▶ Keep away from children and other animals.

**Can handling this medication be hazardous to me, my family, or other pets?**

There are no specific precautions required when handling this medication unless you are allergic to it. Wash your hands after handling any medication.

**How should I dispose of this medication if I don't use it all?**

- ▶ Do not flush this medication down the toilet or wash it down the sink. If a community drug “take-back” program is available, use this option. If there is no take-back program, mix the drug with coffee grounds or cat litter (to make it undesirable to children and animals and unrecognizable to people who might go through your trash), place the mixture in a sealable plastic bag to keep it from leaking out, and throw the bag out with the regular trash.
- ▶ Do not save leftover medication for future use or give it to others to use.

**What other information is important for this medication?**

- ▶ Magnesium hydroxide is available OTC (over-the-counter; without a prescription). Do not give laxatives (or any other OTC medications) to your animal without first consulting a veterinarian.
- ▶ Do not change dosage forms (eg, powder, tablets) without first consulting with a veterinarian or pharmacist, as the doses may not be the same.

**If you have any other questions or concerns about this medication, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist.**